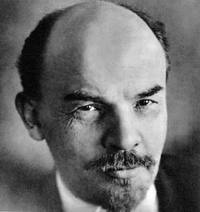
**Prosecution Witness: Vladimir Ilich Lenin**

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*“There are no morals in politics; there is only expedience. A scoundrel may be of use to us just because he is a scoundrel.” - Lenin*

*“*[*To rely upon conviction, devotion, and other excellent spiritual qualities; that is not to be taken seriously in politics.*](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/v/vladimirle403889.html)*” - Lenin*

Just call me **Lenin** please. My revolutionary slogan “peace, land and bread” sums up this case. If people actually had “peace, land and bread” under Czar Nicholas’ rule, this simple slogan would not have been such a powerful agent of change.After all, wasn’t it his job to take care of “his people”?

I was born in 1870 in Simbrisk, Russia. My given name was Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov, but I changed my name to Lenin as a revolutionary name to hide my true identity, and shield my family from punishment for things I did. At an early age, I was surrounded by books and learning, I graduated first in my class and at age 16 attended university. I am pretty smart.

If one has a question about the Czar’s actions, they need look no further than what he did me and my family. My father was forced out of his education post by agents of the Czar because they felt he was educating the poor too well and they were becoming too open minded and revolutionary against the Czar and his power. This firing caused my father a ton of stress, which caused him to die shortly after. Then my older brother, the person to whom I was closest to in the world, Aleksandr was arrested and hanged as a state criminal. As a university student, he had become a member of an underground revolutionary organization called “The People’s Will”. They had planned to overthrow the regime of Czar Alexander III until they were betrayed by one of their members to the secret police. It’s no wonder I became a revolutionary myself. By the age of 17, thanks to the Czar, I was the head of my household, and my entire family had been branded as traitors. In 1887, I was admitted to law school but was expelled 3 months later for having an illegal assembly, and I was branded a revolutionary like my brother. At this point the Czar banished me and my sister to a distant part of Russia. In 1889 I formally labeled myself a communist. In 1891 I was permitted to take the law bar exams and thus passing them, I became a powerful and forceful lawyer for the poor. After all, no one within the government was helping them.

Make no mistake about it, I was a communist and a revolutionary. I thought the best thing for Russia would be to get rid of the Czar, and I was doing everything I could to make this happen. However, my plans were discovered by the Czar’s agents and I was jailed for 15 months in a Siberian gulag, or prison camp. When I was released, I left Russia, and I began to write extensively about revolutionary issues and ideas, and the problems in Russia. As a result of my writing, some people began to accuse me of being a *Jacobin,* in other words, like Maximillian Robespierre, of the French Revolution, with his single-minded, short-sighted ruthlessness. That is simply not the case. The truth is they fear me and my ideas.

In 1905 Nicholas’ disregard for the poor got him in to a lot of trouble. In the aftermath of Bloody Sunday, Nicholas had a chance to make things right. Factory workers and peasants rose up against the Czar and his policies, and successfully convinced him to agree to the October Manifesto, including significant rights for citizens and the creation of a Duma. It looked like he was going to agree to give up on purely autocratic rule and share power with the people. Unfortunately for him and his family, his dimwitted shortsightedness kicked back in and he essentially undid these reforms when he issued the Fundamental Laws in 1906. The result of all this was that little change happened. The Czar refused to listen to what people were telling him they needed, and for this he would one day pay.

In 1914, not wanting to look weak, Czar Nicholas II joined other European nations in fighting in the “Great War.” Even though his country was on the verge of bankruptcy, the Czar felt that appearing strong was more important. While his country starved, he sent men into combat with little training and sometimes with no guns or bullets. Again, the Czar refused to listen to what people were telling him they needed. In one case, the general in charge told those without guns to pick them up off their dead friends. By early 1917 I personally saw this situation as an opportunity. Freezing, starving, and convinced the Czar would kill them all, the people of St. Petersburg rose up against Czar Nicholas II. With a simple promise of “peace, land, and bread,” the people were eager to follow our lead.

A general strike nationwide occurred next, in which all workers refused to work for any reason. On March 2, 1917, Czar Nicholas II abdicated, or resigned from being the emporer. This is when my Bolsheviks and I pounced. The Czar’s brother Michael, seeing the rage and determination of the people in Petrograd refused to become the Czar. From that point it was easy to wrestle power away from the others. I assumed power in November of 1917 as leader of the Bolsheviks and set about correcting the mistakes of the past. For instance I ended Russia’s participation in the “Great War”. Thus we delivered on the “peace” part of our promise. Every day I make the workers the favored class by making sure that they are well fed. My comrades and I hold the Czar and his family captive under house arrest. I can assure you that we do not intend to harm a hair on the head of Czar or any of his family.